

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CALGARY

AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS STATE 140276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS. OEXC

SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO SUITCASE THEATRE

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE ASKED TO SEEK LOCAL SPONSORSHIP FOR "SUITCASE THEATRE," OF LANSING, MICHIGAN DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 12. THIS GROUP OF 24 YOUNG PEOPLE IN 15-20 AGE RANGE WITH SIX STAFF INCLUDING DIRECTOR POWELL LINDSAY NOW ON US TOUR UNDER AEGIS NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION WHICH HAS APPROACHED DEPT ON BEHALF GROUP. TOUR WILL CONCLUDE IN SEATTLE AND GROUP WILL ARRIVE VANCOUVER AUGUST 12 AND LEAVE FOR TORONTO SAME DAY ON CANADIAN PACIFIC TRAIN AT 1830. THEY WOULD LIKE TO GIVE PERFORMANCES ALONG ROUTE IN RETURN FOR HOME STAYS, I.E., BOARD AND ROOM. ACCORDING CANADIAN PACIFIC TIMETABLE, OVERNIGHT STOPS SEEM FEASIBLE AT BANFF RESORT AREA OR CALGARY (ARRIVE 1335 AUGUST 13) WINNIPEG (ARRIVE 0920 AUGUST 15) AND TORONTO (ARRIVE 1620 AUGUST 17).

2. SUITCASE THEATRE NOT KNOWN TO CU/CP BUT GROUP RECEIVED UNCLASSIFIED

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MATCHING FUNDS IN FY 1973 AND 1974 (BEING CONSIDERED FOR

FY 1975 GRANT) FROM EXPANSION ARTS PROGRAM OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR ARTS (NEA) FOR DOMESTIC PROGRAMS. GROUP TOURED CANADA AND SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES PAST 4 YEARS. NEA FILE HAS FAVORABLE REVIEWS INCLUDING ONE BY BRUCE BLACKADAR OF WINDSOR (ONTARIO) STAR, BUT CURRENT PRODUCTION (GROUP PRODUCES ANNUAL REVUE -- MUSIC, SONG, DANCE, POETRY

AND DRAMATIC VIGNETTE -- ON THEME "THESE TRUTHS") NOT EVALUATED. WE WILL TRY TO GET ASSESSMENT OF 1974 PRODUCTION TO ADDRESSEES BY NEXT WEEK. COPY TOUR PROGRAM AND PROMOTION SHEETS BEING POUCHED ADDRESSEES TODAY. SUGGEST POSTS AWAIT RECEIPT THIS MATERIAL BEFORE APPROACHING POTENTIAL SPONSORS.

3. FOR TORONTO: PLEASE INFORM OTHER ADDRESSEES IF ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PREVIOUS ONTARIO VISITS BY SUITCASE THEATRE.

4. SUITCASE THEATRE ORGANIZED IN 1970 TO GIVE EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED MICHIGAN YOUTH FROM EVERY ETHNIC GROUP EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE FAMILY LIVING IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHILE USING AND DEVELOPING TALENTS IN PERFORMING ARTS AND TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL BY DEMONSTRATING "DEMOCRACY IN ACTION" THROUGH RACIALLY INTEGRATED PRODUCTION ABOUT LIFE IN AMERICA. DIRECTOR LINDSAY IS GRADUATE YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DRAMA AND ACTIVE FOR 30 YEARS IN ALL PHASES THEATRE WORK. FOUNDER AND PAST PRESIDENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION FOR MICHIGAN NEGRO HISTORY, HE PRODUCED NUMBER OF DRAMATIZATIONS OF WORK OF LONG-TIME FRIEND, LANGSTON HUGHES, WHO, WITH LINDSAY, CONCEIVED SUITCASE THEATRE.

5. IF POSTS FIND LOCAL SPONSORS WHO WISH TO CHARGE ADMISSION FOR REVUE, SUITCASE THEATRE HAS NO OBJECTION AND WOULD NOT EXPECT TO SHARE IN ANY PROFITS UNLESS SPONSOR WANTS TO MAKE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR WORK. THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN IS HOME STAYS. SISCO

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